in the course and any other institution for starting a course or training in Pre-school Teacher Education/Nursery Teachers Training *vide* Notification No. F 53-3/2003-NCTE(N&S) dated 1.1.2004.

These regulations have now been revised vide Notification No. 49-42/2005-NCTE(N&S) dated 27.12.2005 Gazetted on 13.1.2006 which stipulate that a written communication alongwith a copy of the application form submitted by the institution shall be sent to the State Government/UT Administration concerned. On receipt of communication, the State Govt./UT Administration shall within 60 days furnish its recommendations on the applications to the office of the Regional Committee. If no reply is received from the State Govt./UT Administration within the stipulated 60 days, it shall be presumed that State Govt./UT Administration concerned has no recommendation to make.

(d) NCTE Act provides for granting of permissions to run all teacher education courses including M.Ed. even without NOC of the State Government provided it fulfils all the norms and standards established under its Regulations

No specific instances of a Regional Committee not recognizing M.Ed. course for which NOC from the State Government has been submitted and which fulfils all other requirements of the relevant provisions of the NCTE Act, Rules and Regulations has come to notice.

(e) Question does not arise in view of 'd' above.

Central Universities in the North-East

2153. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have opened Central Universities in every State of the North-East, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to open one Central University in hill States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Central Universities have been established under Acts of Parliament in every State, however, the Acts in respect of Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim are yet to come in to force.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The present policy of the Government is to lay emphasis on consolidation and expansion of facilities in the existing universities rather than setting up of more universities.

Expenditure on higher education

2154. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that we are spending only 0.37 per cent of our GDP on higher education as compared to 0.05 per cent by China, 1.41 per cent by US and 1.07 per cent by UK;

(b) if so, how we propose to open new universities or expand the existing universities with a view to accommodate a large number of students, especially when quota for OBC has been fixed and assurance to other classes of students has been given that the number of seats for them would not be curtailed; and

(c) the percentage of GDP we propose to spend on higher education in the year 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) It is a fact that public expenditure on higher education in the India is lower than several other countries.

(b) Expansion of Capacity in higher education is a joint ongoing effort of the State Governments and the Central Government. The budgetary provision for higher education including technical education has been substantially increased since 2004-05 by the Central Government resulting in the creation of new Central Universities and other higher education institutions.